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Staff, MSRC, "Hobson Normal Institute" (2015). *Manuscript Division Finding Aids*. 95.
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HOBSON NORMAL INSTITUTE COLLECTION
Collection 49-1

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June 1980

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

Scope Note

The Hobson Normal Institute Collection was donated by the Society of Hobsonites in 1953. The Institute was founded in Parsons, Kansas by the Iowa yearly meeting of the Society of Friends in 1882. The purpose of the school was to train students for the teaching profession and provide higher education for Negro youth in the border states, where segregation limited Negro schools to the eighth grade. The school was closed in 1896.

The collection contains 39 items spanning the period 1882-1953. Included are brief sketches of the history of Hobson Normal Institute, its first principal Darius W. Bowles, and the Society of Hobsonites. Also, there is memorabilia consisting of catalogues, programs, diploma, and a gavel. The collection included photographs of the Bowles family, and of students who attended the institute.

Series Description

Series A Historical Data

Box 49-1 Brief sketches of the history of Hobson Normal Institute, news articles about reunions of the graduates 1942-1953, and brief biographical data about Darius W. Bowles, the first principal of Hobson Normal.

Series B Memorabilia

Box 49-1 Catalogues, commencement programs, stationary and sheet music related to Hobson Normal Institute

Series C Photographs

Box 49-1 Photographs of the Bowles family members and home; students of Hobson Normal Institute.

Series D Certificate

Box 49-1 Diploma issued by Hobson Normal Institute in 1883.

Series E Artifact

Box 49-1 Gavel; made from a part of the balustrade of the stairway of the school.

Container List

Series A Historical Data

Box Folder

- 49-1 1 History of Hobson Normal Institute (typescripts)
 2 News articles (xerox)
 3 News articles (originals)
 4 Darius W. Bowles - biographical data

Series B Memorabilia

- 5 Institute catalogues 1882-1891
6 Commencement programs - 1885, 1886, 1892
7 Letterhead stationary
8 Sheet music (sing at the 1892 commencement exercises)

Series C Photographs

- 9 Darius W. Bowles
10 Mrs. D. W. Bowles (tin type)
11 Home of Darius W, Bowles
12 Paul Bowles
13 Simeon O. Clayton (founder of Society of Hobsonites)
14 Student group - n..d
15 Student group - 1884
16 Class of 1889

Series D Certificate

Diploma: Hobson Normal Institute issued to Maria Dorsey - May 25, 1883.

Series E Artifact

Gavel